



# HAMATEURCHATTER



One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 16 No. 01 - January, 2008

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER** by Howard, AB9FH

Thanks to everyone who came out for our Christmas party at Meyer's. I hope you all had as good a time as my family did. Special thanks to Brian, KC9HEK, and Al, KC9IJJ, for their top-notch job of arranging everything, including a visit from Santa.

Is it too early for New Year resolutions? I hope the sun has resolved to squeeze out a few more spots in 2008. My own include being a little more organized, and getting a little more exercise. For the club, I would like for us to have both a Technician and a General class. Are you looking for a challenge this coming year? Remember all four of our officers will be coming up for re-election in May!

At our last meeting, I mentioned some of the ham radio events that will come up before our next club meeting (at the very end of January). I got the idea that many of you are not familiar with them. Kids Day is a twice-yearly chance to invite kids to experience amateur ra-

dio. The winter event is Sunday, January 6th. The summer one is the weekend before Field Day. The Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio is sponsoring their second Winter Field Day the last weekend in January, 2008. Not all emergencies wait for warm weather; we know that well here in Wisconsin. And there is almost always some contest on each weekend.

Money was a common topic also at our meeting. Here is one more call for a few good hams to give up a few hours to review our financial state, how we got where we are, and help us with thinking about where we want to go. I know we have several members who have experience in these areas, and the club would really benefit from your input.

In closing, I hope you had a safe and healthy holiday season!

*73 and Merry Christmas*

*from Howard, AB9FH; Fran; Sarah, KB9ZNC; Abbie, Katie; and Charlie.*

## **MRAC Officers**

<b>President</b>	
Howard Parks	AB9FH
<b>Vice President</b>	
Joe Schwarz	N9UX
<b>Secretary</b>	
Sarah Parks	KB9ZNC
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Mark Tellier	AB9CD

### **Board of Directors**

Brian Bieger ('07-'09)	KC9HEK
Pancho Doneis ('07-'09)	KA9OFA
Tom Liebe ('06-'08)	WI9TOM
Al Maahs ('07-'09)	KC9IJJ
Ted Stiller ('06-'08)	WA9RDI

### **HamateurChatter Editor**

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA  
**New:** [adoneis@wi.rr.com](mailto:adoneis@wi.rr.com)  
(414) 344-4694

### **HamateurChatter Emailings**

Joe Schwarz N9UX

### **Regular Mailings**

Dick Wood W9JBE

### **Club/VEC Phone no. is**

**(414) 332-MRAC or**  
**(414) 332-6 7 2 2**

Visit our website at:

[www.w9rh.org](http://www.w9rh.org)

Address correspondence to:

**M. R. A. C.**

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695  
or [w9rh@arrrl.net](mailto:w9rh@arrrl.net)

# NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130- ARRL voice news
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130- MAARS Swapnet
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast Round Table (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+ Weather & Swap Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160 6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	<b>Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490</b>	<b>MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)</b>	
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)	<b>Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390-</b>	<b>W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net</b>	
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sat	9:00 PM	146.910- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800 FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365 MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910- Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz  
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 meters and above are USB

## HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.<sup>00</sup> per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

For the **January 31** meeting,  
**Joe Schwarz, N9UX's**,  
program will be about  
**Home Computer  
Networking.**

The February 28<sup>th</sup>  
program will be by Brian  
Bieger, KC9HEK, who will  
talk about

*Software Based Radios*

## CREDITS

Our thanks to our news  
contributors this month:

AB9FH      KF9PU      N9UX  
KC9HEK      KB9ZNC

Our thanks also goes to:  
**Rita Doneis, Hal Newton, and  
Tom Fuszard**, for proofreading  
the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to **Dick Wood**

for mailing the hard copy of the  
'Chatter and to **Joe Schwarz**,  
who Emails the 'Chatter.

**Brian White**, who administers  
our Web Site.

**Tom Czaja, Tom Fuszard, Larry  
Noldan, and Mark Tellier**  
who manage our VEC.



**Thank YOU!**



# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 11/29/07

By SARAH PARKS, KB9ZNC

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 p.m. by our president, Howard AB9FH.

Secretary Sarah, KB9ZNC, read the minutes from the previous meeting. There were no corrections noted, so the minutes were approved as read.

Our treasurer Mark, AB9CD, gave the financial report. It was approved as read.

**Buzz Talk:** Pancho told the club that Buck, K9RYW, is starting an MRAC 6 m Net. The net will run on Thursday nights, starting at 8 p.m. CT, on a frequency of 50.160 Mhz. The mode will be USB, at least initially.

**Old Business:** The club Christmas party is next Sunday. So far there are 26 signed up to attend.

Howard, AB9FH, asked for participation from the membership in a financial review committee to meet one afternoon in January and go over the club books.

The Board reviewed detailed numbers on Chatter printing and postage expenses at their last meeting. It costs around \$600 for the year to print about 50 copies, and mail about 40 of them. The entire dues of those who receive a mailed Chatter are effectively taken up by that expense, leaving the remainder of the members to cover other club expenses. Club expenses on the whole are greater than our dues income, and we are fortunate to have other sources of income such as the auction, raffle and refreshments which make up the deficit. Accordingly, the Board voted to establish an additional \$10.<sup>00</sup> charge per year for those who wish to have a hardcopy Chatter mailed to them. This will cover most of the expense and help rectify the inequity in sharing of club expenses.

Brian, K9LCQ, asked if the Board would provide a budget for the meeting in January. Mark, AB9CD, would be glad to provide this.

The 2008 Registration/Renewal forms are complete, and vice president Joe, N9UX, had copies available on the front table. The new form will soon be available on the club website, [www.w9rh.org](http://www.w9rh.org).

**New Business:** Mark, AB9CD, reported that the next testing session will be January 5th in Waukeasha in conjunction with the WARAC swapfest. The Extra Class question pool is the next to be updated and will be available for review. Contact our VEC if you want to help review questions for accuracy and to suggest changes.

Joe, N9UX, reported that there have been some changes to the FM Simplex Contest rules for 2008, the most obvious being a return to the "sprint" format. A flyer with all the details has been prepared, and will soon be available on the club website. Some club officers also have copies to share. The contest will be February 10, 2008.

Brian, K9LCQ, requested that the Board look into the purchase of a lapel mike to work with the sound system, since the handheld mikes are unwieldy during presentations.

Howard, AB9FH, reminded members that there is no meeting in December, but mentioned several other ham radio activities taking place: WARAC swapfest January 5th, Kids' Day January 6, and S.P.A.R., Winter Field Day

January 26-27. Brian, K9LCQ, talked briefly on Skywarn Recognition Day which is on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**Dues 're Due!!!  
Let's Dues It!!!**



**MRAC Appliction  
form  
on Page 5**

# DUES TIME AND CHATTER UPDATE

By **JOE SCHWARZ, N9UX**

Once again we come to the beginning of the year, and ask you to renew your membership. Our dues have stayed at \$17 for some time; for 2008 this will remain the same. However, after much consideration, the board has decided to make a change regarding the distribution of our Newsletter, the *HamateurChatter*.

Due to the rising cost of printing and mailing the club newsletter, we are asking for an additional subscription of \$10 if you wish to receive the chatter via postal mail. It costs the club about \$1/issue per person to print and mail the Chatter each month. Life + Chatter membership will remain at \$10.

There is no additional charge for those members who wish to receive the Chatter via email, since the club does not incur any expense in the distribution via email.

Please feel free to contact any of the board members for more information regarding this change.

Thanks for your membership!

Joe Schwarz, N9UX

MRAC Vice-President

## FM SIMPLEX CONTEST – FEB 10, 2008

By **JOE SCHWARZ, N9UX**

It's time again for the MRAC FM Simplex Contest! On the afternoon of February 10, amateur radio operators will gather on the airwaves and exchange location information. All it takes to get involved is an FM transceiver; you can participate on one, two, three or four bands.

A couple of tips for new participants: 1) Know your grid square. See the contest flyer or check the ARRL website to find your grid square. 2) Program your radio with the contest frequencies, this will make it easier to find other stations. 3) Have fun!

There are some changes this year. We are going back to the "sprint" format, with only one band running at a time. Also, the length of the contest has been extended, one hour for 2m, one hour for 70cm, 30 minutes for 6m, and 30 minutes for 1.25m. We will be starting earlier, at 1:00 p.m.

There are also bonus points to be awarded this year. Radio station W9RH will be on the air. In addition to the points for a contact, there is an additional 10 point bonus for working W9RH on any band. See the score sheet for how to add the points to your score. If you are interested in participating with the W9RH operation, please contact me at [n9ux@arrl.net](mailto:n9ux@arrl.net).

More information is available on the club website at [www.w9rh.org](http://www.w9rh.org). In addition, the contest will be listed in the February ARRL QST Contest Corral. I look forward to working many of you in February!

73-

Joe, N9UX

Details on pg. 6



*Our Christmas party hosts Brian Bieger & Al Maahst.*



*Pres. Howard Parks, his wife, Fran, & Secretary, Sarah Parks.*



# Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 070695  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

## 2008 Membership/Renewal Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

PT R C CK

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Family member name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Address \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_ Home Cell Office Other \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive the club newsletter via email? ☐ Yes ☐ No (\$10 Subscription for US Mail)

Membership Type Applied for (check only one)

☐ Regular \$17.00 ☐ Family \$17.00 ☐ Associate \$17.00 ☐ Life + Chatter (Mail) \$10.00

Applicants License Class

☐ None ☐ Novice ☐ Technician ☐ Technician Plus ☐ General ☐ Advanced ☐ Extra

Spouse or Family License Class

☐ None ☐ Novice ☐ Technician ☐ Technician Plus ☐ General ☐ Advanced ☐ Extra

ARRL member?

Applicant ☐ Yes ☐ No

Spouse/Family ☐ Yes ☐ No

Participated in any Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club training?

Code on the Air ☐ Yes ☐ No Classroom ☐ Yes ☐ No

Code on the Air ☐ Yes ☐ No Classroom ☐ Yes ☐ No

Club Interests: ☐ Teaching ☐ Field Day ☐ Volunteer Examiner ☐ Officer

☐ Director ☐ Net Control ☐ Repeater ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Committee interests: ☐ Newsletter ☐ Field Day ☐ Repeater ☐ Refreshments

☐ Public Relations ☐ Archives ☐ Meeting Programs

☐ Christmas Party ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Amateur radio interests: \_\_\_\_\_

*Enclose a check for the appropriate amount and mail it to the address above.*

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31

Received from \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars Cash/Check # \_\_\_\_\_

For Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club dues 2008

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

# MRAC FM SIMPLEX CONTEST

This Contest, the afternoon of **Sunday, February 10, 2008**, is sponsored by The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club – which has been continuously meeting for more than 90 years. The purpose of this contest is to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of contesting and simplex operations and expand the scope of their VHF-UHF operating techniques beyond that needed for repeater operation.

1. This event is a sprint, lasting 3 hours from 1:00pm until 4:00pm CST. Contacts are limited to FM simplex on the following amateur bands: 2 meter (1pm–2pm), 70 centimeter (2pm–3pm), 6 meter (3pm–3:30pm) and 1.25 meter (3:30pm–4pm)
2. Contest frequencies: Contest frequencies correspond to recommendations in the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters band plan.
  - A. 2 meters (Primary 146.550, 146.565, 146.580 and 146.595 MHz)  
(Secondary 147.540 147.555 147.570 and 147.585 MHz)
  - B. 70 centimeters (Primary 446.025, 446.050, 446.075 and 446.100 MHz)  
(Secondary 446.125, 446.150, 446.175, 446.200 MHz)
  - C. 6 meters (Primary 52.530, 52.550, 52.570 and 52.590 MHz)  
(Secondary 52.730, 52.750, 52.770, 52.790 MHz) or (50.3 to 50.6 MHz horizontally polarized antennas)
  - D. 1.25 meters (223.520, 223.540, 223.560 and 223.580 MHz)
3. Frequencies essentially follow the ARRL VHF Contest rules and Wisconsin Association of Repeaters' band plans.
  - A. On 2 meters no contacts on the 146.52 calling frequency, or the guard channels 15 KHz above and below '52. (Using the Wisconsin Band Plan's 30 KHz spacing and 15 KHz splits). Any entry from a station heard making QSO's on these frequencies will be disqualified. Try to limit activity to the primary frequencies.
  - B. As a matter of courtesy and good amateur practice, avoid the other calling frequencies of 52.525, 223.500 and 446.000 MHz.
  - C. Solicitation for simplex contacts on repeaters, but not 146.52, is permitted.
4. Exchange – Call Sign and four character Maidenhead Grid square.

# EVENTS

## MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu. - Jan. 31, 2008

Home Computer Networking

## MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu. - Feb. 28, 2008

Software Based Radios

## HamFest 2008 \*

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

Sun. - Mar. 16, 2008

Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds - Activity Center

Jefferson, WI

T/I on 145.49 repeater

Email: [tricityarc@yanoo.com](mailto:tricityarc@yanoo.com)

Subject: Hamfest 2008



## MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu. - Mar. 27, 2008

## SuperFest 2008 \*

Fri. & Sat. - Mar. 28 & 29, 2008

AES, Milwaukee, WI

\* VE testing Sat. only

## MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu. - Apr. 24, 2008

## 3rd Annual Central WI SwapFest

Sat. - Apr. 26, 2008

Colby Lions Pavilion

Colby, WI

T/I on 147.75/147.15 (114.8 tone)

## Cedarburg SwapFest

Sat. - May 3, 2008

Circle B Recreation Center

Cedarburg, WI

T/I on 146.97- (127.3 tone)

## MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu. - June 26, 2008

\* indicates VE testing is available.

# VE NEWS

BY Tom, KF9PU

We had two test sessions in November. The first, on Nov. 3, was in conjunction with the MRC Swapfest. All seven candidates earned either a new Technician license or an upgrade. Twelve candidates attended our session on Nov. 24. Nine earned either a new license or an upgrade.

VEs who assisted during November included:

Larry Noldan -----NZ9I  
Ken Hahn -----WK9H  
Tom Czaja -----KG9EE  
Mark Bye -----KB9LDX  
Wes Andersen -----N9YE  
Brian White -----K9LCQ  
Mark Tellier-----AB9CD  
Bob Diehl -----WB9KMT  
Tony Kolar -----AB9PN  
Hal Newton -----KB9OZN  
Kent Christiansen--N9WH

Our next session will be held Jan. 26 @ AES 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

VEC financial report for November and December:

Beginning balance: \$4,474.26  
Income: \$105.00  
Expenses: \$0  
Ending balance: \$4,579.26

# REMINDERS

Please check into our nets on Friday evenings.

Our **Ten Meter SSB** net is at **8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz  $\pm$  5 KHz USB.**

Our **Two Meter FM** net follows at **9:00 p.m. on our repeater at 145.390 MHz, minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for **Saturday Morning Breakfast** at **Maxim's Restaurant**, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

## CQ Third Tuesday

Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:

**Old Country Buffet**

16750 West Bluemound Rd.

Brookfield, WI

This gathering of HAMs meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

We start arriving there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out.

# EXAM SCHEDULE

BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

## MRAC VEC

## Exam Schedule

For upcoming Test Sessions:

Jan. 26      9:30 a.m. @ AES

Feb. 23      9:30 a.m. @ AES

Mar. 29      9:00 AES Superfest

Apr. 26      9:30 a.m. @ AES

May 31      9:30 a.m. @ AES

For details, check out:

[www.w9rh.org/testing.htm/](http://www.w9rh.org/testing.htm/)



**AES = Amateur Electronic Supply**

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

The next meeting of MRAC  
will be **Thursday, January 31, 2007**  
at **7:00 p.m.**

**Redemption Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
(Use the south entrance)

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

-----  
**Please, DON'T call the church.**

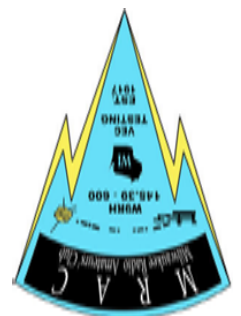
**Our Repeater,  
Talk it up.  
145.390- MHz  
(127.3 Hz PL)**

**Joe Schwarz, N9UX,**  
will be our featured  
speaker for our pro-  
gram at our **Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>**  
general meeting.

-----  
He will speak about  
**Home Computer  
Networking**

Visit our website at: **www.qsl.net**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**  
**332-6 7 2 2**



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**First Class**